

City of Springfield
Work Session Meeting

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF
THE SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

The City of Springfield Council met in a work session in the Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield, Oregon, on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Leiken presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mayor Leiken and Councilors Fitch, Ballew, Lundberg, Ralston, Woodrow and Pishioneri. Also present were Interim City Manager Cynthia Pappas, City Attorney Joe Leahy, City Recorder Amy Sowa and members of the staff.

1. Authorization to Apply for an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant to Fund Pedestrian Improvements on South A Street and Nearby Streets.

Transportation Manager Nick Arnis presented the staff report on this item. On February 1, 2006, ODOT announced guidelines for the 2009-2011 TE Grant Program and issued a call for proposals. Staff is proposing a grant application that would fund the extension of a planted curb extension similar to the one constructed in front of the Springfield Transit Station. There will be a planted curb extension on South A between 4th and 7th Streets, allowing for a left turn refuge at 5th, 6th and 7th Streets. The curb extension would be landscaped with drought tolerant plants to reduce maintenance and alleviate the need for irrigation. Decorative pedestrian level lighting is proposed for installation within the curb extensions along South A and on adjacent streets as the budget allows. The curb extension and lighting are intended to improve the appearance of South A, improve pedestrian lighting, and shorten pedestrian crossing distances. Staff focused TE application ideas on the downtown area in order to improve pedestrian and landscaping amenities; furthermore, TE funded projects are eligible on state highways, and South A is designated State Highway 126 Business.

If the City is successful and chooses to accept a grant award, ODOT will require matching funds to be appropriated by the City. The grant requires a 10.27% match for ODOT funds. The City's commitment can be in the form of "soft match" which includes staff time and overhead associated with a project. It can also be "hard match" in the form of cash or the contribution of real property such as the donation of property or right-of-way for a project. Funds for a match are contained in the 2007-11 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) under the Transportation Demand Project.

The Notice of Intent form is due March 23. The Metropolitan Policy Council (MPC) will review the metro area applications that are approved through the Notice of Intent process. Completed TE grant applications must be submitted by June 30, 2006. There is a lengthy review and approval process that will culminate in a notification of grant awards in February 2007. If approved, actual construction could begin in 2009.

Councilor Fitch noted that it was about time for this improvement.

Councilor Ballew asked if there would be any issues with the merchants along that stretch of the road or from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Mr. Arnis said he did not believe there would be issues with the merchants as no right-of-way was needed. He said staff did check in with ODOT and they seemed to be fine with it. He noted the previous discussion of parking lots in that area that ODOT was opposed to, but those were no longer being considered.

Councilor Fitch said anything that looked attractive and would assist pedestrians with crossing the street would be beneficial.

Councilor Pishioneri asked if there would be potential opportunity for something similar to go into Glenwood.

Mr. Arnis said there was a current TE grant that included a design for the McVay Highway and the LTD Station. He said next week staff would also bring a proposal to Council for long-range planning money for Franklin Boulevard.

Councilor Pishioneri said that would be great for continuity between Springfield and Glenwood.

Mr. Arnis noted the number of bike lanes that had been added to this area.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:03 pm.

Minutes Recorder – Amy Sowa

Sidney W. Leiken
Mayor

Attest:

Amy Sowa
City Recorder